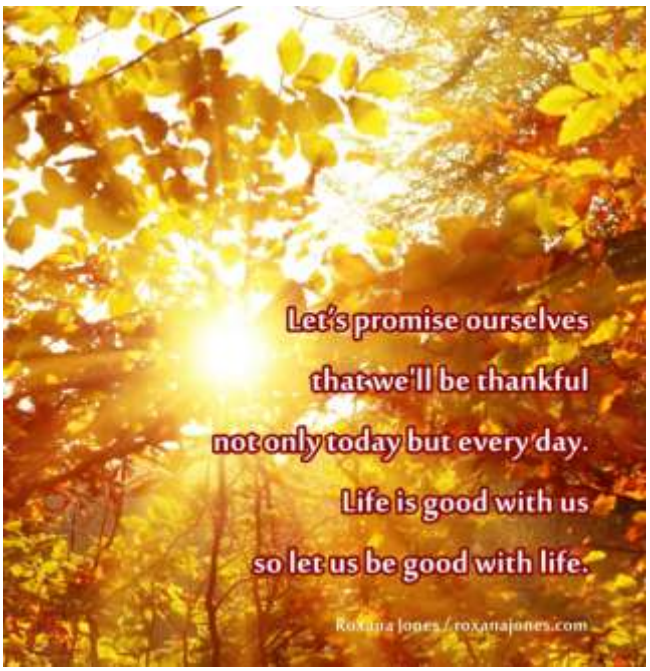
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti, MI

"Follow Me"


Let's promise ourselves
that we'll be thankful
not only today but every day.
Life is good with us
so let us be good with life.
Roxana Jones / roxanajones.com

http://quotesgram.com/thanksgiving-quotes-inspirational/

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

November 22, 2015 10:00 am

Thanksgiving Sunday

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

Hymns are found in the following books:
NCH *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
Sing! *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
ES *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Invitation

All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith
If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.

Prelude Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"God of Change and Glory"** **177 NCH** – Steve McGhee

Welcome Hunter Turner

Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.
We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

Please rise in body or spirit as you are able

Announcements Hunter Turner

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Ringing the Bell

Anthem **"Come, Follow Me"** FCC Choir

Call to Worship (Unison) Hunter Turner

What is the call of Jesus Christ to us? Do our lives reflect the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ? Is the rule of Christ among us as our central concern? Do we daily join in ministry? This is our call from Jesus Christ. As you reflect pray for guidance. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

LISTENING FOR GOD

Old Testament **Psalm 27** Hunter Turner

Hymn **"Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"** **136 NCH**

Children's Time *children are invited to come forward*

New Testament **Matthew 5:14-16** Carol Hall

Sermon "Signals" Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"God of the Prophets"** **53 ES**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

Prayers of the People Carol Hall

All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time. Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Alternate Version Carol Hall

When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.

Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey

Breath of Life,
In whom we live and move and have our being,
Your presence fills all of Creation.
May justice and mercy reign,
In our lives and in our world.
Today may our bellies be full,

Our hearts warm,
And our fellowship open.
May we reconcile with the people we've hurt,
Just as we reconcile with the people who've hurt us.
Lead us not into a time of trial,
But deliver us from evil.
For wherever grace and community abide,
There you are with us;
We are not alone.
Blessed be.

– by Chance Hunter (Used under Creative Commons license)
http://www.timesandseasons.net/2011/the-lords-prayer-an-alternate-version

***Hymn of Reflection** **"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"** **403 NCH**

RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING

Invitation to the Offering (Unison) Carol Hall

As we have been influenced by your love in Jesus Christ, help us to communicate that love by what we do and say. Our offerings are our way of attesting to your love transformed to human kindness and love. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

Offertory Steve McGhee

***Doxology** **"Take My Gifts"** **562 NCH**

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,
Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!

Prayer of Dedication *(Unison) Hunter Turner

Let us become as lamps brightening a cloudy day, as light breaking forth at dawn. We dedicate ourselves and our gifts to your service and as your light for this world. Amen.

– Adapted from "Led by Love", Lavon Bayler

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

***Hymn of Departure** **"Peace"** **193 SING**

***Benediction** Carol Hall

Postlude Steve McGhee

(Please be seated for the Postlude)

Passing the Peace *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

Open and Affirming Covenant of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti.

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions.
All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe and nurturing community of faith.
We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413
218 North Adams Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
734-482-6980

website: ***www.ypsiucc.com***

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Volunteers	Today: Nov 22nd	Next Sunday: Nov 29th
Usher	Marty Kleino	Jamie Goldsmith
Preaching	Carol Hall	Carol Hall
Worship Leader	Hunter Turner	Ivan Harner
Worship Set-up	Ann Marie N-T	Margaret Harner
Acolyte	Lyle Molter	Lyle Molter
Friendship Time	Patty Sherwood	Barbara Garland
Sunday School	Alex Goldsmith	???

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY: In the few days you will be receiving a letter along with your Pledge card and Time and Talent card. We will be collecting the Pledge and Time and Talent cards on Sunday, November 29th.

Citrus Fruit Sale 2014-2015: December Shipment Orders are due no later than **December 1st**.
Delivery will be December 10 – 13th
Contact Tad Wysor (734) 483-3761 or Wayne Burling (734) 377-0696 if you have any questions.

- **Navel Oranges (~20 lbs):** **$24/box ($12 for 1/2 box)**
- **Ruby Red Grapefruit (~20 lbs):** **$22/box ($11 for 1/2 box)**
- **Tangerines:** **$28/box ($14 for 1/2 box)**
- **NEW! Variety Pack:** **$28/box ($14 for 1/2 box)**

Student Advocacy Center of Michigan.....Benefit Concert: **Concert 4 a Cause** is once again having an event to benefit the community -- this time for the **Student Advocacy Center of Michigan,** which has worked for 40 years to fight school dropout and push out of our most vulnerable students through advocacy, education support, academic mentoring and youth leadership opportunities.
Concert4aCause featuring:
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Bass String Quartet & Piano Shubert Trout Quintet & a Vaughan Williams Quintet
***Friday, November 20th - 8pm Northside Community Church - 929 Barton Drive, Ann* Arbor**
Celebrating the work of **Student Advocacy Center of Michigan**
Free and open to the public. Donations accepted at the door - 100% going to support the work of Student Advocacy Center.
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PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

Fran Pebbles' address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

Sally Dusbiber's *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR): For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights*****,** or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION: For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION: "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.

See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

OUR WEBSITE: http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

KROGER FUNDRAISER: **HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expires May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.

About this week's cover photo:

While this image appears at this site: http://quotesgram.com/thanksgiving-quotes-inspirational/

The image clearly shows: http://roxanajones.com/

Roxana Jones has helped thousands of people across the world through her books, articles,**HealThruWords® spiritual healing programs** and **inspirational quotes** that are shared daily through her online community of 100K+ members.

Roxana became a best-selling author in the **spirituality** and **personal development** categories after she was ready to share what she had learned as the result of thirty years of thorough study of many different cultures, schools of thought, and traditions that offered the framework to understand her life purpose: to serve others by offering **transformational leadership** and **spiritual healing** through the words she writes.

The first twenty years of this path were dedicated to the academic world where she earned a B.S in Anthropology in 1990, that was later complemented with a Master's Degree in Political Science in 2003 and a Master's Degree in International Relations in 2006.

At the same time she continued searching for answers through higher education, a twelve-year abusive marriage that led her to **addiction, depression** and a **suicide attempt**, ended in **divorce** in 1999. At 33, Roxana found herself confronted to an uncomfortable truth: she was still looking for something she didn't know where, or how to find. Her **emptiness** was so unsettling that she decided to surrender to *that* which was keeping her alive and search for what was still missing.